

HEALTHY COASTAL ECOSYSTEMS FOCUS TEAM

LEGAL IMPACTS

OCTOBER 2009

555 MISSISSIPPI/ALABAMA: Legal research results in formation of new marine reserve/protected area

Through the 2007 Grant Competition, the Law Center funded an investigation into whether Port Orford, Oregon could develop a community-based fishery management system. The Project Team recommended four options the community could pursue, including nominating two areas off Port Orford for inclusion in Oregon's proposed Marine Reserve network. On September 28, 2008, the project team submitted a local proposal for a marine reserve/marine protected area, the Redfish Rocks Research Reserve, under Oregon's statewide marine reserve planning process. The Oregon Ocean Policy Advisory Council recommended that Redfish Rocks move forward as a pilot marine reserve. Governor Theodore Kulongoski's 2009-2011 recommended budget includes funds to support initial implementation of Redfish Rocks. *[A/L-4 (leg prot)]*

321 MISSISSIPPI/ALABAMA: Legal Research on Proposed Hawaiian Bounty Program

The Hawaii Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism sought information about the contract and liability issues surrounding the development of a reward program for recovery of derelict fishing gear. The Law Center concluded that the liability concerns were misplaced as the state should be immune from most suits and the reward program would not result in contractual relationships.

According to the requesting individual, our research 'helped dispel what seemed to have been 'an urban myth.' This myth was a roadblock to implementing a major marine debris retrieval program.'<sup>2</sup> The agency expects to receive funding in 2008 to finally implement the reward program. *[A/L-4 (wq leg)]*